

want to get done and get agreed to. So we're trying to work out how to get the Federal employees back to work. We'd also like to get them paid. I think that's an integral part of getting them back to work. But as the President said, I think, frankly, most of our success so far has been that we've been in this room talking with each other and not getting involved in negotiating in public, and I think we've made a lot of progress.

Q. To follow on that, sir, is it healthy to have the House Speaker talking on CNN yesterday on the——

Speaker Gingrich. Oh, that is nonsense. I told the President on Friday that I was so favorable about him in answering their big question on "Evans & Novak" that I thought he'd want to see it. The fact is we're working very well together. I was asked a question about the campaign next year, and I suspect if you ask Mr. Gephardt or Vice President Gore about how they'll campaign next year, they'll give you similar answers. We're negotiating very well from a Government standpoint in here, and I think we have a lot to be proud of. Our New Year's wish ought to be that we get this done and give the American people a balanced budget and the Government paid for and back to work.

Senator Dole. The Senate is going to meet at noon; we'll try to pass something to help the Federal employees.

Q. Are you closer?

Senator Dole. Oh, we're about 6 feet apart. [Laughter]

Senator Daschle. We'll be a lot closer in a couple of hours. [Laughter]

The President. We're working at it steady. Happy New Year everybody.

NOTE: The exchange began at 9:50 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Statement on the Death of Admiral Arleigh A. Burke

January 1, 1996

We mourn the passing today of Adm. Arleigh A. Burke, U.S. Navy (Retired), whose dedicated and exceptional career is cherished by everyone who knew of his extraordinary

courage, legendary reputation, and selfless service.

Last summer, as I prepared for the 50th anniversary of the commemoration of V-J Day and the end of the war in the Pacific, I had the honor and privilege of having dinner with Admiral Burke. I benefited then from his wise counsel, as had previous Presidents before me. Courageous and gallant, he was renowned for his heroism and leadership during the Pacific battles of World War II, from Cape St. George and the Solomon Sea to Leyte Gulf and Okinawa. During his 6-year tenure as Chief of Naval Operations in the pivotal years of the cold war, Admiral Burke's vision ensured a balanced and versatile Navy to help deter world war and respond to whatever crises might come. The U.S. Navy, in naming one of its most powerful class of surface ships after "31-Knot Burke," has ensured that his name will ride the seas as a reminder in the coming century of an indomitable destroyerman and naval leader who stood for freedom and the excellence needed to defend it.

To Admiral Burke's wife of 72 years, Roberta, his family and friends, and to the Navy community, I extend my heartfelt condolences. We will remember him as one of America's finest sailors and most capable military leaders.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on Loan Guarantees to Israel

December 30, 1995

To the Congress of the United States:

Enclosed is an unclassified report on the Loan Guarantees to Israel Program and on economic conditions in Israel, as required by section 226(k) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (Public Law 87-195), and section 1205 of the International Security and Development Cooperation Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-983).

William J. Clinton

The White House,
December 30, 1995.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 2, 1996.